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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JAMES STEVENSON

Introduced By: Representatives Filippi, Shekarchi, Morgan, O'Grady, and Giarrusso

Date Introduced: February 28, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Mr. James Stevenson, a world renowned author and artist, passed away on
2 February 17, 2017, in Cos Cob, Connecticut, at the age of eighty-seven; and

3 WHEREAS, James Stevenson was born in Manhattan, New York, on July 11, 1929, to
4 the late Harvey and Winifred Stevenson. He was raised in Croton-on-Hudson, New York. From
5 an early age, he exhibited a talent and passion for art and drawing. During his summers in high
6 school, he served as an office boy for the New Yorker, where he discovered that he had a desire
7 to create comedy through the use of art. After graduating from high school, he attended Yale
8 University, and shortly after graduating, he served our nation as a member of the United States
9 Marine Corps; and

10 WHEREAS, After his honorable discharge from the military, Mr. Stevenson worked as a
11 reporter for Life Magazine until he was hired in 1956 by the New Yorker Magazine, where he
12 illustrated cartoons that made him famous across the globe. He was an enormously talented and
13 prolific artist who both wrote and illustrated articles, something few artists were able to do. In his
14 nearly fifty years at the New Yorker, Mr. Stevenson drew 1,988 cartoons for the magazine, often
15 taking pleasure in poking fun at the wealthy, pompous and privileged. He also designed seventy-
16 nine New Yorker covers; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to his duties at the New Yorker, Mr. Stevenson produced
18 numerous children's books. He had a knack for not talking down to children, but instead, spoke
19 gently and truthfully to them. He even illustrated a children's book for Dr. Seuss in 1987, entitled
20 "I Am Not Going to Get Up Today!" He also wrote novels and produced an illustrated biography

1 of fellow New Yorker cartoonist, Frank Modell. Mr. Stevenson was always in high demand
2 thanks to the beauty of his art and his creative way of expressing a point of view. He was a true
3 renaissance man; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Stevenson was the loving husband of Josie Merck and the devoted
5 father of four daughters, Jane, Edwina, Emma and Sucie Stevenson, and five sons, Harvey,
6 Chuck, Jim, Walker and Peter Stevenson. He also leaves behind six grandchildren, a
7 stepdaughter, Oona Coy, a stepson, Morgan Coy, and four step-grandchildren. He was also the
8 husband of the late Jane Walker, until her passing in 1982; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
10 Providence Plantations hereby express its condolences on the passing of Mr. James Stevenson;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Josie Merck.

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